N.J.; $2 Cataract City Bank, of the Hadley Falls Bank, Ho- torically significant.

Early note shows St. Louis

By Eric P. Newman

An 1817 $10 Bank of St. Louis circulating bank note is my favorite piece of paper money. It contains the oldest known view of St. Louis which is the city where I was born and where I live.

The note was issued by the first bank of issue west of the Mississippi River.

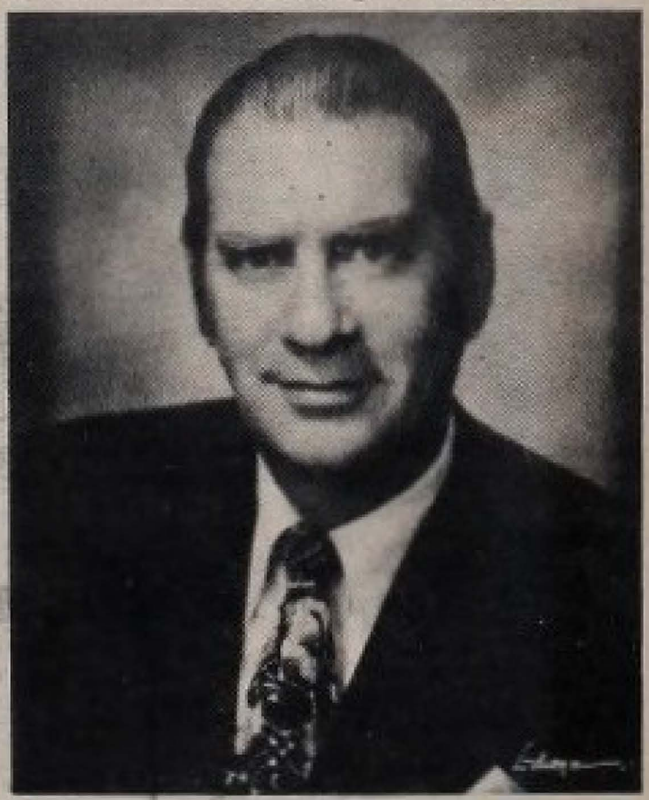
When I acquired the note about 40 years ago, I undertook to compare the view with other illustrations of St. Louis during the territorial period, only to discover that none were earlier.

I then studied other early pictures of St. Louis, and as a result, became a collector of early St. Louis scenes and illustrations.

The houses in the picture were identified and a pamphlet published covering their history and their occupants. The view had never before been heard of and no St. Louis museum nor other numismatist has an example of the note.

This view of St. Louis has often been used in publications and publicity about St. Louis, and I am pleased that a numismatic item turned out to be of such great historical importance for St. Louis.

When the American Numismatic Association meets at St. Louis this summer, the visitors can observe the changes in 162 years.



Eric P. Newman

The earliest view of St. Louis is supplied by this Bank of St. Louis note in the author's collection. This view has often been used for historical illustrations of this summer's American Numismatic Association convention host city.